

Chief of Air Force Reserve pins on 3rd star

WASHINGTON - Lt. Gen James E. Sherrard III, chief of Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command received his third star during a ceremony June 5 at the Pentagon.

This is not only a promotion in rank, but it also elevates his dual-hatted position to a lieutenant general billet.

The change helps lessen the disparity in rank between Sherrard's position and that of other major command commanders because most of them are four-star generals. It also affords the position, in the role of chief of Air Force Reserve, coequal status with Air Staff deputy chiefs of staff, of which he is a statutory member.

"This elevation to a third star is recognition of the demonstrated potential for greater service and capability of the men and women of the Air Force Reserve - that's what this is all about," Sherrard said.

"In reality, it's what we have already been doing, so evident in our day-to-day activities providing services and experience that are crucial to the Air Force's ability to

meet its worldwide commitments."

The services agreed that the responsibilities of their respective reserve chiefs dictated a higher rank, but the authority to upgrade the two-star positions had to come from Congress.



Photo by TSgt. Jim Varhegyi

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael Ryan (left) and Marsha Sherrard pin a third star on newly promoted Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, chief of Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command, June 5 during a ceremony at the Pentagon.

AFRC alone has more than 74,000 military members, flies more than 400 unit aircraft and operates hundreds more aircraft through associate programs with the active

force, providing the Air Force with 20 percent of its capability. The flying missions run the gamut, from rotor wing and weather reconnaissance, to heavy lift and bombers to fighters, trainers and air battle management. No other Air Force major command encompasses so many different types of aircraft and missions.

In the fiscal year 2000 National Defense Authorization Act, Congress approved upgrading the reserve component positions, but the promotions had to come from active-duty, three-star authorizations.

However, with the enactment of the FY 2001 NDAA, Congress increased the limit on the number of officers who can serve on active duty above the grade of O-8. At the same time, Congress directed the Department of Defense to promote the chief of Air Force Reserve and the five other reserve bosses within 12 months.

"I receive this promotion as a representative of all the men and women of our United States Air Force Reserve," he said. "They make me proud to serve - above and beyond." (*AFRC News Service from Air Force Print News*)

Ceremony welcomes new Air Force secretary

by Larry Clavette
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Dr. James G. Roche, secretary of the Air Force, pledged to serve the way Air Force men and women do every day throughout the world — with integrity, selflessness and in earnest pursuit of excellence. He made this pledge during a welcoming ceremony honoring him June 6 at Bolling Air Force Base, D.C.

Gen. Michael E. Ryan, Air Force chief of staff, was host of the 40-minute ceremony featuring 102 people from the Air Force Honor Guard and the 22 musicians in the Air Force Ceremonial Brass Band.

Besides unfurling the secretary's flag, the ceremony included an inspection of the troops by Roche, and a pass in review in honor of the secretary.

"The 700,000 officers, airmen and civilians

welcome you to our Air Force family and thank you for your commitment and sacrifices you'll make to serve with us," Ryan said.

Ryan presented Roche with an Air Force leather jacket.

Roche thanked everyone for attending the ceremony and said he was humbled by the generosity and support.

"I join a flourishing team of active-duty

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Vacancies

◆ **Community relations experienced needed at Luke, AFB, Ariz.** Call Lt. Col. Lefforge at DSN 896-6011.

◆ **PA officer needed to serve as the PAO at Goodfellow AFB, Texas,** for 30-45 days starting in early November. Prefer captain or major but will take experienced lieutenant. Contact Cheri Dedrick, DSN 477-3879.

◆ **Major or lieutenant colonel needed for 139 days at European Command in Stuttgart, Germany,** to serve as public affairs specialist with responsibility for developing, formulating and executing a theater quality of life command communication strategy within the EUCOM area of responsibility. Civilian equivalent background: Corporate communications, strategic planning and marketing, television/radio executive, marketing manager, public relations account manager. Applicants must have a passport and a current security clearance is required. On-post quarters available. For more information, contact CMSgt. Tim Brown, DSN 314 430-8870/8900, commercial 011 49 711 680 8870 or e-mail browntj@eucom.mil.

Reserve offers HYT extensions

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. - Reservists with a high-year-of-tenure date between June 1, 2001, and Dec. 31, 2002, may request an extension of their enlistment in the Selected Reserve.

Unit reservists, including Active Guard and Reserve members, have until Aug. 31, to obtain their wing commander's recommendation. Individual mobilization augmentees have 30 days from the date of notification to apply for an extension.

Military personnel officials here said Air Force Reserve Command is offering the temporary exception to policy so it can attain mission and end-strength objectives. Members cannot be extended beyond their 60th birthday.

Reservists with a previous extension may request an additional two years not to exceed a combined total of five years or age 60. People requesting an extension for the first time may ask for up to three years if the extension does not take them past their 60th birthday.

If the Reserve filled a position before June 1, 2001, because of an anticipated vacancy created by a HYT date, the replacement and the reservist eligible for the extension can occupy the same position during the extension period. The replacement is not eligible for promotion until the promotion cycle after the extended reservist actually leaves the position.

The extended reservist, who is considered

an overage, is not eligible for promotion.

When evaluating unit mission needs, commanders have the option of requesting the return to the Selected Reserve of reservists who retired because of a HYT date between October 2000 and May 2001. The same terms apply to returning retirees -- their combined extension can't be for more than five years, and they can't be extended beyond age 59.

Air reserve technicians who decide to retire from civil service will have their HYT extension terminated when they leave their civil service position.

The Reserve began phasing in its HYT program Jan. 1, 1989. The program limits participation in the Reserve to 33 years of total federal military service for all enlisted reservists unless they are selected for an extension beyond the HYT. The Reserve started the program to improve grade ratios, ensure sustained promotion opportunity for lower-grade enlisted people and increase readiness with a more fit force.

Before 1989, reservists could conceivably stay in the service more than 40 years, depending on when they enlisted. For example, reservists who joined the service on their 18th birthday and did not take a break in service could serve for 42 years before reaching mandatory separation at age 60.

Military personnel flights have more information about HYT extensions. (*AFRC News Service*)

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airmen, civil servants, guardsmen, reservists, contractors and advocates," Roche said. "You have a strong legacy despite being the youngest service, and a tradition of high standards and mission success. You have earned the admiration of our nation, you have earned the respect of our world, and you have earned the promise of a bright future."

America's Air Force team is justifiably proud of its incredible achievements including the current operations over Iraq in operations Northern Watch and Southern Watch; numerous other combat operations and humanitarian missions; and most recently, the implementation of the expeditionary aerospace force, and a reversal of the downward trend in recruiting, Roche said.

"In the realm of aerospace power, you fly the best, train the best, maintain the best," he said. "As you put it, 'No one comes close.'"

Roche was sworn in as the Air Force's 20th secretary June 1.



Photo by TSgt. Jim Varhegyi
Secretary Roche (right), and his host, General Ryan (left), inspect the troops June 6 at Bolling Air Force Base, D.C., during a full honors review and welcome ceremony.



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Worldwide commissary case lot sale on tap

by **Bonnie Powell**

DeCA Marketing Business Unit

FORT LEE, Va. - Ask any military shopper which commissary special event they like best and they'll tell you: Case lot sales.

"When we hold commissary focus groups, 'when's the next case lot sale?' is a question the young active duty invariably ask," said Air Force Maj. Gen. Robert J. Courter, Jr., Director of the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA). "It's one of the things they associate with commissaries and it's really a big deal to them. When they tell us what they want, we listen."

Mark your calendars. From Minot, N.D., to Mannheim, Germany, commissaries worldwide will participate in a massive case lot sale Sept. 7-8. DeCA regions will select participating stores based on practicalities such as store location and size, but the majority of commissaries are expected to join in on the fun.

Already one of the top two military benefits, DeCA is taking its mission of sales and savings to the next level. The worldwide case lot sale features everything from canned goods to paper goods, and a few items in between.

"We'll have diapers, cereal, juices, soups, and health and beauty items as well," said Robert Vitkacs, chief of DeCA's grocery buying division. "We're just beginning to firm up the shopping list!"



According to the latest market basket survey, using the commissary benefit saves shoppers 29.2 percent on their overall grocery basket. Case lot pricing can increase the savings significantly. Participating manufacturers know they will sell a high volume of products in a short time, so they can offer lower-than-normal prices for case lot sales.

A recent five-day sale at Fort Campbell, Ky.,

resulted in major increases in the store's daily sales - and additional savings for military shoppers. "We averaged \$292,000 a day in sales," says store director Gene Lantz. "That's pretty significant in a store normally averaging about \$180,000 a day!"

"Commissaries have been holding local case lot sales on a store by store basis for years and customers tell us they love them so we're excited about the possibilities for this worldwide event," said Vitkacs.

"We're trying to attract new customers as well, particularly single service members and guard and reserve members who might not be using their commissary benefit regularly."

"While shoppers are saving additional money during the case lot sale, we also want them to look around inside their commissary for all the improvements and conveniences we've added," said Courter.

"We always offer a wide range of groceries on sale. When people shop more often they get some great deals. We want our customers to know that the commissary isn't just their 'pay day' store -- it's their 'every day' store!"

Customers can read more about the case lot sale this summer on the all-new www.commissaries.com Web site.

Briefs

Pre-authorization of IDTs

AFMAN 36-8001, Chapter 4 requires that all IDTs have advance authorization. This should be done on Air Force Form 40a.

The current version has a parenthetical statement in the Authorization block (III) that states: "Required for lodging only and shall not exceed the number of training days." This is incorrect, and the form is being revised to remove the parenthetical statement. It is important that the IDT be pre-authorized to ensure coverage in the event of a casualty on the way to or from training.

The casualty offices have said they need written proof that a member was in a duty status; this is done via an order or AF Form 40a. Until the form is revised, ensure you have advance authorization prior to performing IDTs.

For more information, contact Jim Jenkins,

HQARPC/XP, at 1-800-525-0102, Ext. 71246, or e-mail Jim.Jenkins@arpc.denver.af.mil.

Travel card changes

DoD and Bank of America recently agreed to changes in the Government Travel Card, or GTC, contract. Some of the changes are effective immediately, while others are slated for future implementation.

Effective immediately, a \$29 late fee will be assessed if the account is delinquent more than 75 days, and a \$29 fee for any returned checks. They will also charge a \$20 rush fee for delivering a new card within 24 to 48 hours, which may be reimbursable if approved by your supervisor. ATM fees will increase to a minimum of \$2, or 3 percent of the withdrawal.

Scheduled for future implementation are deactivation of accounts used less than three times per year, reduced monthly spending

limits, and garnishment procedures for delinquent accounts. DoD will also establish a default split-disbursement procedure. Details on these future changes will be publicized when available.

AFOSI seeks help in fraud case

ARPC/FM has recently learned of a possible two-year scam involving rental cars in England.

Upon returning home, military members have discovered the rental car company added extra charges to their bill, to include collision damage, after they closed out their bill. The Air Force Office of Special Investigations at RAF Mildenhall, England, is looking for any Air Reserve Component member with first-hand knowledge of this fraud.

Reservists with information on this issue should contact Lt. Col. Joseph Garcia at DSN 225-0366 or (703) 695-0366.